

**Church Prayer Walk**

*“The body of Christ has many different parts, just as any other body does.*

*Our bodies don’t have just one part. They have many parts. Suppose a foot says, ‘I’m not a hand and so I’m not part of the body’. Wouldn’t the foot still belong to the body? Or suppose an ear says, ‘I’m not an eye and so I’m not part of the body’. Wouldn’t the ear still belong to the body? If our bodies were only an eye we couldn’t hear a thing and if they were only an ear we couldn’t smell a thing.*

*But God has put all parts of our body together in the way that he decided is best ……*

*Together you are the body of Christ. Each one of you is part of his body”*

*1 Corinthians 12:12-27*

The Bible says that the church is like a body. It is a group or body of people which serves Christ. That group is made of us as individual people, and we all have unique abilities from God that can be used for him.

**Welcome to our church prayer walk.** During this week of prayer many churches, like yours, will be using this prayer walk to pray as a Presbyterian church across Ireland. I hope you enjoy God in prayer today!

In 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 Paul prays for his friends in the church of Thessalonica.

* He thanks God that they are Christians
* and he tells God how well they are serving him in their work for the church.

“*We thank God for you and always mention you in our prayers. Each time we pray, we tell God our Father about your faith and loving work and about your firm hope in our Lord Jesus Christ*.”

Today you are going on a journey around the church to pray for the many different people who serve in it. You can start your journey at any of the places on the list.

**This booklet can be your passport – get it stamped at each station or draw a picture in the box each time you finish**.



**Prayer Passport**

1. **Ministry team** – make your way to the pulpit/ lectern.



* Who is preaching on Sunday?
* Can you name your minister?
* Is there anyone else on the ministry team in your church?
* What jobs do they do in church?

**Pray:** Dear Father God, thank you for our minister and ministry team. We thank you for the time they spend reading the Bible, and writing sermons, so that we can learn more about you. Be with them in all the planning, visiting and teaching they do throughout the week. We pray for Sunday’s service, that you would be present in this place as we bring our worship to you. We also pray that people would hear about Jesus and decide to follow him. Amen.

1. 2. **Music** – make your way to the praise group/ band/ organ.



* Can you name some songs you sing in church?
* Do you know the names of the people who help out with music?
* Why do we sing in church?
* What instrument do you like best?

Worship is always God-focused, and it is a way of showing God how much we love and value him. We worship by the words we sing and speak, and the prayers we say. Worship helps us to develop our relationship with God and give us opportunities to express their feelings about God.

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, today we want to thank you that as part of our worship in this church, we can sing your praise. We are grateful for the talent you have given all our musicians who lead us in praise. Thank you for the time and commitment they give in your service. Help us to worship you with our whole hearts. Amen.

1. **Audiovisual** – make your way to the sound desk/ computer.



* + Do you have microphones in church? How many can you see?
  + Do you have a computer? Is it used for PowerPoint or video?
  + Do you know the names of the people who operate the sound or computer?
  + Is your service recorded or live-streamed so that those who are unable to get to church, can worship at home?

**Pray:** Dear Father God, thank you for the technology in our church which helps us to comfortably hear those speaking, and for PowerPoints and videos which enable us to understand and worship more easily. We give you thanks for the people who operate this equipment. We pray for everyone who will listen to Sunday’s service by CD or Livelink. Amen.

1. **The congregation** – have a seat somewhere in church.



* Do you come to church on Sunday with your family?
* Where do you sit?
* Can you name some other people who come to church?

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, we pray for everyone who comes into church this Sunday. If they are worried, tired or lonely, we pray that you would help them to know you love them. If they are happy, we pray that they would give you thanks and praise you with joy. We pray that everyone in church would listen for your voice and be changed by your Word. Give us a boldness to speak to others during the week about your saving love. May someone become a Christian this week. Amen.

1. **Babies and toddlers** – make your way to the creche or children’s ministry room.



* Did you go to church as a baby?
* What toys are there?
* Why is there a creche?
* Are there any other times children meet here? Is there a parent and toddler group? Pray for the leaders.

**Pray:** Dear God, thank you for the children of our church. We pray that they would feel relaxed and happy in our buildings and that they would know your love through the people here. Keep them safe and happy, as they start the routine of worshipping with our church family on Sunday. We pray for all parents and young children who come to this church building during the week. May they be drawn to know more of you and come to a saving faith. May the conversations in creche and at toddler group be directed by you. Amen.

1. **Welcome** – make your way to the vestibule/welcome area.



* Are there people here each Sunday to welcome you to church?
* What do they do?
* Is there an announcement sheet?

**Pray:** Thank you God for everyone who volunteers to meet people at the door each Sunday. We pray that everyone would feel welcome and comfortable. Help us all to smile and encourage each other, and to speak to visitors. Amen.

1. **Children** – make your way to the hall/Sunday club room.



* Who is the leader of Sunday club?
* How many teachers are there? Who is your teacher?
* What other children’s organisations meet here? Is there youth club, good news club, Girls’ or Boys’ Brigade?

**Pray:** Dear Father God, we want to thank you for Sunday school teachers who work hard to prepare lessons so that we can learn more of you. We also thank you for all the volunteer leaders of the children’s organisations of our churches. Keep them close to you and aware of your guiding and leading. Thank you for all the children who come into this building. May you speak to them and we pray that they would come to know you as saviour. Help us all to listen to your teaching so that we may love and serve you better. Amen.

1. **Coffee** – make your way to the kitchen or coffee bar.



* When is this area used?
* Is there tea, coffee, and juice before or after church?

“*We should keep encouraging each other to be thoughtful and do helpful things. Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord’s coming is getting closer*” Hebrews 10:24-25.

**Pray:** Thank you God for friends at church – friends that we can talk to, sit beside, run about or play games with. Thank you for the fellowship and friendship in this place, and that this might deepen. We thank you for those who prepare coffee and we pray that everyone would feel welcome, loved and valued. Help us to sit beside other and get to know them. May we all make an effort to encourage each other and to reach out to those we don’t know, or those who may be lonely, or new. Amen.

1. **Youth** – make your way to where the youth meet.



* Is there a teenage Bible class in your church?
* Is there a youth fellowship?
* Do you know the names of any high school kids in your church?
* Are there any university students or young adults?

**Pray:** Dear Father God, we pray for all the young people of this church, and those who attend the youth organisations. Teach them that you care for each of them. Help them to show that they love you when they are at school, at home, at uni, at work, at church and with their friends. We pray for those who are lonely, upset, worried or under pressure. May they be challenged to turn their lives over to you. Also guide and direct the youth leaders as they serve and teach our young people; give them the patience, stamina, and words that they need to speak your truth. Amen.

1. **Leadership** – make your way to place where committee and Session meets.



* Did you know that a committee helps run the church and looks after the finances and buildings?
* Did you know that the elders help make decisions about the spiritual direction of this church?

**Pray:** Father, just now we want to pray for all meetings that take place in this room. May your name be glorified, and your will be done. Help the elders and committee members to serve you and lead this church so that it may shine as a light in this area and people may come to know you. Give the leaders vision and passion to direct our church to tell others of all ages about you. Amen.

1. **Bible ministry** – find a Bible.



* Are there Bibles in your church? How many can you see? Do you want to count?
* Is there a Bible reading during the service?
* Name your favourite Bible story.
* Do you know anyone who has not got a Bible? Could you give them one?

**Pray:** Dear God, thank you for your Word, the Bible. Thank you for how it teaches me how to live for you. I pray that you will give me opportunities to tell my friends and family about you. Help me to share your love. Help this church to reach out to those who don’t yet know you. Help us to learn when your Word is explained to us. I pray that you would help me encourage others to read your Bible and that you may speak through it. Amen.

1. **Looking outward** – go to a door and look outside.



* As you look around the area of your church, think about all the people living around. Do you know any of them?
* Can you name any schools in the area?
* Can you name any teachers in the area?

**Pray:** Lord I pray for the area that my church is in. I pray for Christian teachers in local schools, give them courage to share your love. I pray for all the boys and girls in this area, and that you would help me tell them about my church and about your love. I pray that the older people in this church would show your love in the ways you show them, and that this church may welcome and encourage those who want to know more about you. May your Holy Spirit touch the lives of many in this land. Amen.

You may think that just because you are young you can’t be used by God. In John 6 the Bible tells how one boy brought what he had – his lunch of bread and fish – to Jesus and he used it to feed 5000 people!

**What can you do for God?**

* You can continue to pray!
* You can read your Bible and come to church!
* You can be helpful and kind!
* You can smile and encourage others!
* You can enjoy God!

I hope that you will. William